

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Serial Number: 09/002,600

Filing Date: January 5, 1998

Title: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMINDING USERS OF UPCOMING SCHEDULED RECORDINGS**

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defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time input.

25. (New) A method of operating a computerized system having a recording device for recording data during two or more scheduled recordings, the method comprising:

receiving two or more user remind-time intervals, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and with at least two of the user remind-time intervals differing from each other;

defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time intervals; and

outputting a recording reminder signal as a message to a network communications device at a time based on at least one of the recording reminder times.

**REMARKS**

This amendment, responsive to the Office Action mailed August 17, 1999, amends claims 1-2, 4, 5, 8, 10-12, 17, and 20, cancels claims 3, 14, 18-19, 22, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claims 24 and 25. Notably, claims 1, 11, 17, and 21 were amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that of original claims 4 and 19. This subject matter concerns receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time. Additionally, claims 4 and 12 were amended to further specify that outputting the recording reminder signal comprises "outputting a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system." This subject matter finds support at least at page 6, lines 10-11 of the present specification.

**Response to Novelty Rejections**

In the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strubbe (U.S. Patent 5,047,867). In response, applicant submits that the claims as amended distinguish over Strubbe. In particular, each of the amended claims requires act(s) of

or means for receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time. In contrast, Strubbe only provides options for a user to toggle a recording reminder function on or off and to select the type of reminder, without an option to define, either in whole or in part, the timing of the reminder signal relative a scheduled recording event. More particularly, Strubbe explains, at column 6, lines 40-47 and with reference to Figs. 8b and 8d, that “the Change B button 52.3 toggles between whether a reminder is desired and which kind of audible/visual reminder is given, for example, five minutes, before the starting time of the program. This reminder may be an audible signal, or a visual message (typically shown as a PIP display).” Figs. 8b and 8d show the textual message “5 Minute Reminder Is Not Set” and associate the “Change B” button with the certain description “To adjust Type of Reminder,” further confirming that Strubbe teaches only a user adjustment for the type of reminder, not a user input for adjusting the time of the reminder.

In the Action, the Examiner asserted that Strubbe, at col. 7, line 64- col. 8, line 14, disclosed “the method of receiving user input at least partially determinative of the predetermined time.” However, a close analysis of this passage shows it to describe user-selectable options for viewing or watching a videotape. The passage has nothing to do with the Strubbe fixed reminder function. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 102 rejection.

Additionally, applicant highlights dependent claims 4 and 12 as further distinguishing from Strubbe. Claim 4, which stems from claim 1, specifies that outputting the recording reminder signal comprises “outputting a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.” And, claim 12, which stems from claim 11, specifies that the output device includes “means for outputting the recording reminder signal as a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.” In contrast, Strubbe provides only an audible alarm or a visual reminder through a PIP circuit in its host system.

### **Novelty of New Claims**

New claim 24 requires “receiving two or more user remind-time inputs, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and with at least two of the user

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remind-time inputs differing from each other; and defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time input." And claim 25 requires "outputting a recording reminder signal as a message to a network communications device at a time based on at least one of the recording reminder times." In contrast, Strubbe, which discloses only a five-minute remind-time interval, fails to disclose any means for a user to define a remind-time interval and thus fails to disclose receipt of two different remind-time intervals. Additionally, Strubbe, as mentioned above, only describes local output of an audible or visual reminder signal, and thus fails to describe communication of the reminder signal to a network communications device, such as a pager or an electronic mailbox.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amended claims and the highlighted deficiencies of the cited art, applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application. Moreover, applicant invites the Examiner to telephone its patent counsel Eduardo Drake at 612-349-9593 to discuss any questions or concerns about the present application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

17 November 1999

By

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 17, 1999.

Name

Signature